

Remarks

The pending claims 1 – 16 have been rejected under §103 as being unpatentable over Snook in view of Xie, et al. The Examiner has rejected all the claims based on a combination of Snook and Xie, et al., wherein the Examiner cursorily asserts that Snook discloses all the elements of the independent claims, except for the rapid switching of the light sources. The Examiner then uses Xie, et al. for the proposition that Xie, et al. discloses the use of rapid switching light sources and therefore, the combination of Xie, et al. with Snook is obvious. Such obviousness arguments simply cannot stand on their face.

The cited prior art is simply devoid of the specific limitations set forth with regard to the rapid switching light sources as claimed in independent claims 1, 7, and 12. Particularly, neither Snook nor Xie, et al. disclose rapidly switching light sources on and off in a time less than the amount of time required to move via a motor a slit image from one position to the next. Nor does Xie, et al. or Snook disclose controlling the switching of the light sources on and off, such that a time to power up or power down the light sources is less than time required to move a slit image source to a next position to allow each field of interlaced frame to contain data from both the first and second slit image sources. The prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed relationship between the powering of the light sources and the coordinated movement of the slit image source.

Xie, et al. mentions, in passing, that radiation sources 33i, may be flash lamp LEDs or a CW lamps. There is no indication that the slit lamp projector

sub-assemblies 30i are motorized or moveable. Rather, as described in column 6, lines 31 – 34, it seems that Xie, et al. anticipate supplying multiple slit lamp projectors installed around a circle in a plane that intersects plate 21.

There is simply no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to use a rapid switching light source and to turn on and off that light source in conjunction with the movement of a motor of a slit image source in order to allow both the odd and even fields of an interlaced video frame to capture data and thereby, reduce the amount of time necessary for a scan of a patient's eye.

Xie, et al. simply speaks to synchronizing the radiation sources with the camera system 40. No further details on what synchronization entails is included. Therefore, without more, the claims as filed are allowable over the cited art either alone or in combination. None of the prior art is directed to powering light sources on and off in conjunction with the movement of a slit image source motor in order to provide a more efficient image gathering when scanning a patient's eye, as specifically claimed in the present invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1 – 16 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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